Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 07516 301720 Z

47
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

DPW-01 AID-20 EUR-25 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /145 W
---------- 068592
R 301334 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0986

INFO AMCONSUL BIENHOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7516

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS
SUBJECT: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASEFIRE OVERVIEW, APRIL 22-28

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG APRIL 28, 1973
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.
QUOTE:

O 280615 APR 73
FM AMCONGEN NHA TRANG
TO RUMJIR/ AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0442

E. O.: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VC
SUBJECT: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASE- FIRE OVERVIEW, APRIL 22-28

1. THE THIRTEENTH WEEK OF OSTENSIBLE CEASE- FIRE IN MR 2 BEGAN
EASTER SUNDAY WITH THE MOST COSTLY TERRORIST INCIDENT SINCE
JANUARY 28, OR INDEED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. TWENTY PERSONS-- MANY
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 07516 301720 Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

OF THEM TEENAGERS-- WERE KILLED AND ANOTHER 86 WOUNDED, POSSIBLY BY A SINGLE GRENADE DETONATED BY A CHEMICAL TIMING DEVICE, AS THEY WATCHED A DRAMATIC PRESENTATION AT A CHURCH IN A SECURE NINH THUAN HAMLET.

2. THEREAFTER, THE WEEK SLIPPED BACK TO THE SORT OF PATTERN THAT HAS PREVAILED FOR NEARLY TWO MONTHS, PARTICULARY IN THE COASTAL PROVINCES. THERE WERE SMALL NUMBERS OF ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS, SOME OF THEM GROUND ATTACKS BUT MOST OF THEM HARASSMENTS OF RVNAF TROOP POSITIONS WITH MORTAR OR SMALL ARMS FIRE OR OCCASIONALLY (IN BINH DINH) WITH ARTILLERY. OTHER FIXED TARGETS REMAINED ATTRACTIVE TO THE ENEMY: THE NATIONAL RAILROAD IN PHU YEN PROVINCE WAS MINED FOR THE THIRD TIME (TWO TRAINS, ONE BRIDGE) IN SIX DAYS.

3. THE GVN RESPONDED WITH ITS CUSTOMARY AND (FOR THE CEASE- FIRE PERIOD) RELATIVELY HEAVY DOSES OF AIR AND ARTILLERY. THE AREA OF GREATEST ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO BE THE PHU CU PASS IN BINH DINH, WHERE QL-1 AND THE RAIL LINE GO THROUGH A NARROW DEFILE AT THE BOUNDARY OF PHU MY AND HOAI NHON DISTRICTS. RVNAF CLAIMED TO HAVE KILLED 91 ENEMY TROOPS IN THE PASS AREA IN FIVE ENCOUNTERS OVER A THREE- DAY PERIOD, WHILE HAVING ONLY FIVE OF ITS OWN MEN KILLED AND ANOTHER SIX WOUNDED. INVARIABLY THESE ENGAGEMENTS WERE PORTRAYED AT THE NHA TRANG REGIONAL BRIEFINGS AS FRIENDLY REACTIONS TO ENEMY GROUND ATTACKS, BUT THE HIGHLY FAVORABLE CASUALTY RATIOS SUGGEST THAT AIRSTRIKES ACCOUNTED FOR SOME OF THE ENEMY LOSSES. BINH DINH, ON THE SAME DAYS, RECEIVED MOST OR ALL MR 2' S DAILY RATION OF VNAF " TRAINING MISSIONS."

4. THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS HOWEVER WERE UNUSALLY QUIET THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, PARTICULARLY IN THREE AREAS THAT WERE HEAVILY CONTESTED AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING THE FIRST TEN OR ELEVEN WEEKS OF THE CEASE-FIRE PERIOD: THE CHU PAO PASS ON THE PLEIKU- KONOOCKTX8?86,6 G
W Z
QK# GROUND SOME 15 KMS WSW OF KONTUM CITY, AND THE STRETCH OF QL-1

IN WESTERN PLEIKU BETWEEN GVN THANH AN DISTRICT HQ AND THE COMMUNIST
STRONGHOLD AT DUC CO. WITH REGARD TO LAST OF THESE AREAS, IN FACT, WE HAVE A REPORT FROM AN UNUSUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE (WHO IS, HOWEVER,
SOMEWHAT REMOVED FROM THE IMMEDIATE AREA) OF AGREEMENT BY THE TWO
SIDES ON A " BOUNDARY" LINE THAT RUNS NORTH AND SOUTH-- ZA 02 GRID
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LINE, BETWEEN COMMUNIST- HELD THANH GIAO VILLAGE AND THE ARVN RANGER
BASE NEAR PLEI YIT. THIS LINE WAS REPORTEDLY ESTABLISHED ON OR ABOUT APRIL 15, APPARENTLY THROUGH RADIO DISCUSSIONS. CONFIRMATION

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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FROM THE IMMEDIATE AREA HAS YET TO BE OBTAINED, BUT THE REPORT
-- IF TRUE- A WOULD INDICATE SOME LESSENING OF THE MR 2 COMMAN
E E E E E E E E

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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